



# GSL - Online

The Official Newsletter of the Montana Guaranteed Student Loan Program  
A Division of the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

(800) 537-7508  
www.mgslp.org

## August, 2007 Edition

### Money Management With Mapping Your Future

With the ever increasing use of alternative loans to fund college educations, do you ever wish your students were armed with a little more information before they took on that debt? We have a tool that could help do just that!

Using loan counseling powered by Mapping Your Future, MGSLP (with help from our friends at Carroll College) has developed a money management counseling session. The session focuses primarily on providing simple money management tips and wraps up with a section on alternative student loans. No one alternative loan program is referenced, we simply share some of the terminology associated with alternative student loans and provide students with some food for thought before they accept more debt.

According to Marti Pearce at Carroll College, "Carroll College requires all student borrowers of alternative loans to complete the counseling. We feel our students will have a better handle on their loans and debt management when they leave school. The alternative loan counseling is one more tool in helping our students prevent going into default and to borrow conservatively."

Requiring students borrowing alternative loans to complete the money management counseling is only one way to utilize the session. The information could be beneficial to any student.

The session works like any other Mapping Your Future loan counseling session. It takes 20 - 25 minutes to complete, there are questions for the students to answer, and when they are done they receive a confirmation number and you are notified via your normal Mapping Your Future notification set up.

Any school can use this session. If you already utilize other Mapping Your Future

### Director's Den

I normally use this column to discuss current events. Without question, there are all sorts of things happening in the financial aid and student loan world. Today, however, I want to relate a true story that happened to my daughter - a recent graduate of a private school in Washington. The short version of her story is that she was given an extra student loan for which she never received the loan proceeds. The loan was issued by a non-Montana lender and guaranteed by a non-Montana guarantor. Today, almost one full year later, she (we) is still battling the school, lender, and guarantor.

I tell you this story because it both reminds me and points out what an awesome group of professionals we have helping students in Montana. Having met a good portion of the financial aid folks here in Montana, and having dealt with virtually every lender in our state, and also having the good fortune to actually witness many of you working directly with students - well, it just gives me a good feeling knowing that our students don't have to suffer through the ordeal my daughter is currently experiencing. Thanks for the great work you all do helping students!

-Bruce Marks, Director

### Focus on Financial Aid



sessions all you need to do is contact MYF at [feedback@mappingyourfuture.org](mailto:feedback@mappingyourfuture.org) and request that this session type be added to your list of sessions. If you are not already using MYF, you can contact them and get set up to use this session. You can reach Beth Ziehmer with MYF directly at 573-796-3730.

To complete a demo of the session, please visit our web site at [www.mgslp.org](http://www.mgslp.org) under the Borrowers Quick Link Section choose the Money Management Counseling link. You can also contact me and I will send you a script of the session via e-mail.

If you have any questions about this new tool, please let me know.

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Sandy Bauman might look familiar to anyone who has ever been to the MGSLP office. That's because Sandy worked at GSL for 9 years prior to taking her new job as the financial aid director of the University of Great Falls. The Deer Lodge native says that one of her first goals in her new position will be to get organized. "Never been my strong point, but I better figure it out quick if I am going to survive this paper landslide", she jokes. "It is fun to be on the school side of financial aid and actually get to work directly with the students. They have great energy and enthusiasm". Sandy has spent the past two years in Great Falls with her husband and two daughters, working as a Customer Service manager for a wireless company.

2007 Salish Kootenai College Conference



The 17th Annual Salish Kootenai College Conference was held in Pablo July 30-Aug 3, 2007, focusing on issues specific to Tribal Colleges. There were many sessions throughout the week and various break out sessions. Jeanie Burland, Financial Aid Director at SKC, and Dan Whiting, Department of Education, were honored for their years of service to the financial aid community upon their retirement. The conference was well attended and a huge thanks goes to Jackie Swain and her staff for making the conference happen.

-Char Sorg

### Faces: Meet The Staff of GSL

"There are ten types of people in this world" quips Gary Hudders, GSL Computer Support Specialist, "those who understand binary, and those who don't". At GSL for over a year now, Gary brings a unique sense of humor and good natured disposition to his job of supporting GSL's computer infrastructure. Gary's days are spent trouble shooting hardware, upgrading software, diagnosing printer problems, and fixing the occasional copy machine. Born and raised in London England, Gary is a long way from home, but is so far enjoying his new life in Montana. Gary is married and has one son, Alexander, who will be turning two this month.

Gary Hudders - GSL Computer Support Specialist

Questions or Comments? Contact Brian Klein, Public Relations Coordinator at (406)444-0610 or [bklein@mgslp.state.mt.us](mailto:bklein@mgslp.state.mt.us)

